

As outgoing President, Anne Robinson provided some parting comments, so noted:

I wanted to take this opportunity, given that this is my last AGM, to thank this Board, and those over the years, and the community at large, that I've had the pleasure, honour and privilege of serving and working with. I wanted to also highlight some of the key projects over the years and some unfinished ones.

I had big shoes to fill when I accepted the Chair in 2017, stepping in after Noel Norenus. Noel was the consummate 'community builder' and though his style was very different from mine, I like to think that I echoed his efforts to collaborate and work closely with the other groups in the Village.

Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association (MCPRA) emerged in 2011, after the demise of the original Manotick Community Association, which was created on the heels of amalgamation in 2000, recognizing the imminent need for the Village to have a voice or be lost in the swale of the larger City.

MCPRA's focus has always been on the 'quality of life' in Manotick – culture and recreation programs, parks and pathways. Over the past decade, we've accomplished both big and small initiatives, including:

- The Interpretive Panels at Long Island Park, installed in 2014...and 3 were re-installed in 2021
- The Mike O'Neil Arena Expansion, begun in 2015 and the Open House held in 2018
  
- Twelve or more River Access signs installed in 2016
- MCPRA initiated 'Chic Time in the 'Tick' as a major fundraiser in 2017
- MCPRA was incorporated in 2018 - a critical step in securing funding from multiple levels of government and charities
- Tree Planting – we meet annually with the City with the goal of adding tree canopy in the Village
- MCPRA's dedicated volunteers maintain two well-used Outdoor Rink Operations; kudos to their hard work. And I'm so excited for Rob's initiation of the Family Friday Skate
- We built pathways through Long Island Park, McLean Park and Centennial Park that are well-used
- We hosted 'Jane's Walk' in tribute to Jane Jacob, the great urban planner – and had one of the most successful participation rates in the entire City
- We adopted the Duck Park – to keep it as a 'natural park' with water access, getting signage, benches
- We led the Mahogany Landing project that opened in 2019 – it took a long time and was a contentious community initiative, but it warms my heart to see so many families enjoy this site today

- Finally, we are leading the Centennial Park Project - Phase 1 is being used and I'm confident that Phase 2, the skateboard and gateway areas, will follow with construction this summer.

I'm sure there are other achievements ...but these are my most memorable highlights, accounting for over \$4M invested in the Village – no small feat. But these accomplishments are rarely the work of a single individual; they are the results of a collective vision, respectful determination, a 'rolling up of the sleeves', and a healthy desire to make the community a better place for all.

I've also been disappointed – despite efforts, no progress has been made to develop park plans for either David Bartlett or Beryl Gaffney Parks. I personally knew and worked with both these individuals and have much regret that collectively 'we' couldn't find a bigger vision, a very unique/creative design to meet the needs of the *entire* community, and leave a legacy to be proud of.

I look forward to new leadership, new energy and new ideas....as 'the old guard' steps away and passes along the baton. It's time. Enjoy, dream big, have fun and as Margaret Mead wrote *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*